

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action mailed September 9, 2004, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 18-25 are allowed. Claims 1-17 were rejected.

In paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 112 rejections. However, in order to advance prosecution of Applicants' application, Applicants have amended the claims. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims do not narrow or change the scope of Applicants' application.

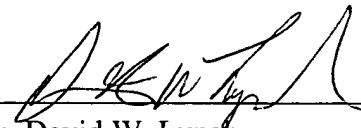
Dependent claims 2-7, 9-12 and 14-17 are also patentable over the cited reference, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claim 1, 8 and 13. Further dependent claims 2-7, 9-12 and 14-17 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-7, 9-12 and 14-17 are patentable over the cited references, and request that the objections to the independent claims be withdrawn.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested. Please charge/credit Deposit Account No. 50-0996 (HITG.108PA) for any deficiencies/overpayments.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicants, David W. Lynch, at 651-686-6633 Ext. 116.

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Respectfully submitted,

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